

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A closure for a container having an opening, said closure comprising:

a monolithic cap including a cap top, a cap skirt depending from said cap top, a container-engaging member on said cap skirt, an open sleeve extending upwardly from said cap top, and a stem guide;

a spout rotatably engaging said sleeve, said spout including a spout top including an aperture, an outer spout skirt depending from said spout top and rotatably engaging said sleeve, and an inner spout skirt depending from said spout top; and

a separate monolithic stem including a plug for selectively sealing said aperture, an outwardly extending spout-engaging member, and an outwardly extending cap-engaging member, said spout engaging member engaging said inner spout skirt for helical motion with respect to said inner spout skirt, said cap-engaging member engaging said stem guide for axial motion with respect to said sleeve.

2. (Original) The closure of Claim 1 in which said container-engaging member comprises an inwardly extending thread adapted to detachably engage the container.

3. (Original) The closure of Claim 2 in which said cap includes a tamper-evident band frangibly connected to a bottom portion of said cap skirt and adapted to detachably engage the container.

4. (Original) The closure of Claim 1 in which said stem guide includes a substantially vertically extending groove and said cap-engaging member includes a tab received in said groove.

5. (Previously presented) The closure of Claim 4 in which a portion of said tab extends upwardly between said sleeve and said inner spout skirt.

6. (Original) The closure of Claim 1 in which said cap further comprises a rotation stop limiting rotation of said spout relative to said cap.

7. (Original) The closure of Claim 6 in which said rotation stop limits rotation of said spout relative to said cap up to approximately 360°.

8. (Original) The closure of Claim 6 in which said rotation stop limits rotation of said spout relative to said cap to approximately 180°.

9. (Original) The closure of Claim 1 in which said stem guide extends along an inner surface of said sleeve.

10. (Original) The closure of Claim 1, said spout top further comprising a non-cylindrical outer wall forming a gripping portion facilitating gripping and rotation of said spout by a user.

11. (Original) The closure of Claim 1 in which said outer wall is oval shaped.

12. (Original) The closure of Claim 1 in which one of said cap and skirt include a tamper stop and the other of said cap and skirt includes a removable tamper tab engaging said tamper stop, said tamper tab engaging said tamper stop and preventing substantial rotation of said spout relative to said cap until said tamper tab is removed.

13. (Original) The closure of Claim 1 in which the container opening is sealed by a sealing member, said stem further comprising a downwardly extending piercing structure adapted for piercing the sealing member of the container upon rotation of said spout relative to said cap.

14. (Original) The closure of Claim 13 in which said stem guide includes a substantially vertically extending groove and said cap-engaging member includes a tab received in said groove, wherein said piercing member is a downwardly extending portion of said tab.

15. (Currently amended) A closure for a container, said closure comprising:

a monolithic cap including a cap top, a cap skirt depending from said cap top and having an inwardly extending thread adapted to detachably engage the container, an open sleeve extending upwardly from said cap top, and a stem guide extending along an internal surface of said sleeve;

a spout rotatably engaging said sleeve, said spout including a spout top including an aperture, an outer spout skirt depending from said spout top radially outward of said sleeve and rotatably engaging said sleeve, and an inner spout skirt depending from said spout top radially within said sleeve; and

a separate monolithic stem including a body positioned radially within said inner spout skirt, a plug for selectively sealing said aperture, an outwardly extending spout-engaging thread, and an outwardly extending cap-engaging member, said spout engaging member engaging said inner spout skirt and adapted for helical motion with respect to said inner spout skirt, said cap-engaging member engaging said stem guide and adapted for axial motion with respect to said sleeve.

16. (Original) The closure of Claim 15 in which said body is substantially cylindrical.

17. (Previously presented) A closure for a container, said closure comprising:

a monolithic cap including a cap top, a cap skirt depending from said cap top and having an inwardly extending thread adapted to detachably engage the container, an open sleeve extending upwardly from said cap top, and a stem guide extending along an internal surface of said sleeve;

a spout rotatably engaging said sleeve, said spout including a spout top including an aperture, an outer spout skirt depending from said spout top radially outward of said sleeve and rotatably engaging said sleeve, and an inner spout skirt depending from said spout top radially within said sleeve; and

a separate monolithic stem including a body positioned radially within said inner spout skirt, a plug for selectively sealing said aperture, an outwardly extending spout-engaging thread, and an outwardly extending cap-engaging member, said spout engaging member engaging said inner spout skirt and adapted for helical motion with respect to said inner spout skirt, said cap-engaging member engaging said stem guide and adapted for axial motion with respect to said sleeve;

wherein said cap includes a tamper-evident band frangibly connected to a bottom portion of said cap skirt.

18. (Original) The closure of Claim 15 in which said cap further comprises a rotation stop limiting rotation of said spout relative to said cap.

19. (Original) The closure of Claim 15 in which one of said cap and skirt include a tamper stop and the other of said cap and skirt includes a removable tamper tab engaging said tamper stop, said tamper tab engaging said tamper stop and preventing substantial rotation of said spout relative to said cap until said tamper tab is removed.

20. (Original) The closure of Claim 15 in which the container opening is sealed by a foil member, said stem further comprising a downwardly extending foil piercing structure adapted for piercing the foil member of the container upon rotation of said spout relative to said cap.